104-10115-10318

National Enquirer
1 September 1968

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Key Witness in Garrison

I Was Offered $50,000 to Probe Says: Kill JFK

Loran Hall, 39, (photo ~~right~~) p. 5 is a key witness in New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's fight to prove a conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As the leader of an anti-Castro guerrilla group in the early 1960s, Hall attended many secret meetings of right wing militants.

Garrison subpoenaed Hall in December, 1967, claiming that he was in Dallas until the assassination and associated with men Garrison contends plotted the President's slaying. Hall successfully fought the subpoena, by proving that he was in Monterey, Calif., on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was killed.

He changed his mind about giving evidence after two attempts on his life. Now he has told Garrison that at the meetings, which were also attended by members of the Central Intelligence Agency, plans were made to kill President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and other national figures. He has given Garrison a list of names, dates and places.

Here, exclusively for readers of The ENQUIRER, he gives evidence of a deadly conspiracy that threatens the U.S.

By LORAN HALL

I turned down a $50,000 offer to kill President John F. Kennedy only five weeks before he was shot dead in Dallas, Texas.

It came from right wing radicals who also had Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King on their kill list — a list which members of the Central Intelligence Agency helped form.

I have given New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who is probing President Kennedy's assassination, a full list of names, dates, and places which I firmly believe will help him prove there was a plot to kill President Kennedy.

I have told him that at meeting after meeting which I attended before President Kennedy's assassination, the killing of President Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King was openly discussed.

And these people were deadly serious.

They were lunatic, fanatical right wingers — Klansmen and Fascists — who had the means, the men, and their own twisted reasons for wanting to kill our leaders.

I know from my own experience as an anti-Castro guerrilla leader that among them were CIA men — for the CIA was deeply involved in our anti-Castro activities.

I have told Garrison that there was a plot to kill President Kennedy. But I believe that the big-

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gest plot of them all was t.. p. .he U.S. Government set to cover up the assassination.

The Government knows Lee Harvey Oswald was not the lone assassin.

He was the patsy, the guy who gave his life so that members of a sniper team could escape. I doubt if he even fired a shot.

The Government's cover up enabled the radical right wingers to continue killing — with Martin Luther King's death certainly the result, and Bobby Kennedy's very probably.

Two attempts have been made on my life because I know too much about the activities of these right wingers.

I hope that by telling all I know to Garrison and The ENQUIRER, these militants will figure there is no longer any point in trying to silence me.

I became involved with the radical right wing when I joined the anti-Castro guerrillas in 1962 because I've a taste for adventure and a dislike of Communism.

I led my own group, La Sambra, on raids from Florida on Cuba and also smuggled arms and ammunition to guerrilla groups on the island.

We were always short of money, and I toured the country to speak at meetings to raise funds.

I was frequently at meetings of radical right wingers on the West Coast, and in Texas and Florida, in 1962 and 1963.

The right wing groups had several CIA men in them. They were a good source of funds.

These radical right wingers who include ex-military officers hate everyone.

The ex-officers had their taste of glory and now their sole thing is that they don't think the American people can rule the country themselves.

They think that just the elite — themselves — can run it.

These people hated President Kennedy because he wanted to co-exist with the Russians, which would have done away with the need for war machinery, because he failed to back up the Bay of Pigs invasion. They even planned how to kill him: A sniper team with from six to nine men that were willing to give their lives for America to hit the President from ambush.

Their idea was that one man might die in the ambush to let others escape. He would be the patsy.

They didn't stop at planning to hit only the President.

They drew up a kill list.

Martin Luther King was on it. King was beginning to get things accomplished for the black people by co-existing and being non-violent. These people were worried by this. They wanted unrest in the country.

They wanted, and still want, to see a revolution between the colored people and the whites. They want complete white supremacy, and they needed open warfare so that they could head that white supremacy.

Bobby Kennedy was on the kill list. If they hated anyone more than John Kennedy it was Bobby, who was then attorney general. They figured he was even more dangerous to them than John, that he would be even stronger opposition to their plans for power.

Chief Justice Earl Warren was another they wanted to kill, along with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

They were Kennedy men, and therefore regarded by the right wingers as dangerous.

The CIA men that I knew were frequently the people who brought up the kill list at meetings. They helped form it.

They were present at West Coast meetings where I was offered men and guns to do the killings.

I turned their suggestions down fast. I had to take part in the discussions simply because I was there, and I needed money from these people. But I wanted nothing to do with these plans.

The offer of $50,000 to kill John Kennedy was made in Dallas, Texas, on October 17, 1963.

I was in Dallas for two reasons.

I had a meeting with right wingers to discuss funds for La Sambra guerrilla raids.

I also had to pick up a trailer load of guns, ammunition and medical supplies for La Sambra.

Before I met with the right wingers, cops picked me up on a fake charge of possessing dangerous drugs.

A cop checking my license plate found ordinary pep pills in my car. He booked me for possessing dangerous drugs and took me in.

Within an hour after I was arrested, they had CIA, FBI, and intelligence investigators in to see me. I don't know why. I wasn't a wanted man, I wasn't carrying a gun. Friends fixed $5,000 bond, and I got out of jail and booked into the YMCA.

The next day I got a call from an attorney saying that the charge had been dropped but that I was to get out of the state by midnight that night.

No reason was given for dropping the charge so quickly, although I never had dangerous drugs.

Later, after the President's death, I figured out why — I was being set up for the Kennedy killing. Not as a conspirator, or a patsy, but as a smoke screen. My arrest was for the records. To show that Loran Hall, anti-Castro fighter, was in Dallas just before the President was killed.

Anyone investigating the assassination would come up with my name, and figure this guy might have a reason for the killing, because Kennedy didn't back the anti-Castro movement.

They would waste time investigating me while the real killers covered their tracks. That's what in fact happened, as I'll explain later.

Anyway, on October 17, before I left town on the DA's orders, I went to the right wing meeting in an office in Dallas.

The man who owned the office was a conservative, not a radical, and we were discussing how to raise money for the Cuban raids.

One of the men, a fascist, stood up and said: "Hell, I'd rather donate to a $50,000 pot to kill Kennedy."

Then he turned to me and said: "You kill Kennedy and the $50,000 is yours."

ended that conversation quick. I told him to forget it. I wasn't interested. I said I might break the neutrality act in attacking Castro but I wasn't a traitor.

The man who owned the office sided with me and nothing more was said. I didn't want the opportunity to find out if the offer was genuine. I believe it was.

I wasn't really shocked by the offer. I'd heard the killing of Kennedy discussed so many times at radical meetings.

I'm certain of one thing — the radicals could have raised the $50,000 all right.

I took off for Florida

trailer loaded with equipment for the Cuban raid. I finished with the Cuban fighting in early November 1963, when Coast Guard and Customs confiscated my car and equipment for breaking the Neutrality Act.

I moved back to California and went to work for a hospital supply group.

I was in my apartment in Monterey, Calif., on Nov. 22, 1963, when President Kennedy was killed. I immediately thought of all the talk and plans I'd heard at the radical meetings about killing him.

I was scared. I didn't go forward to tell what I knew to the Warren Commission which probed the President's death. I wasn't asking for trouble.

But the smoke-screen part of the operation — set up by my arrest in Dallas back in October 1963 — started working.

Mrs. Sylvia Odio, an exiled Cuban and member of an anti-Castro group, testified to the Warren Commission that she was certain Lee Harvey Oswald was one of three men who visited her in her Dallas apartment in September 1963, seeking funds for anti-Castro activities.

But that didn't tie in with "evidence" the Commission had that Oswald was in Mexico City at that time.

So, someone had to be found to knock down Mrs. Odio's evidence. They didn't want Oswald connected with Cubans because that could knock down the "one assassin" theory. The FBI came up with my name through my arrest in Dallas around that time.

They tracked me down in Johnsandale, Calif.

The FBI men obviously wanted to rule out Lee Harvey Oswald having visited Mrs. Odio. I told them nothing. But in the official Warren Commission report it comes out like this:

"Hall has been identfied as a participant in numerous anti-Castro activities. He told the FBI that in September of 1963 he was in Dallas, soliciting aid in connection with anti-Castro activities. He said he had visited Mrs. Odio.

"He was accompanied by Lawrence Howard, a Mexican-American from East Los Angeles, and one William Seymour from Arizona. He stated that Seymour is similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald. He speaks only a few words of Spanish, as Mrs. Odio had testified one of the men who visited her did.

"While the FBI has not yet completed its investigation into this matter at the time the report went to press, the Commission has concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was not at Mrs. Odio's apartment in September of 1963."

The truth is I've never seen Mrs. Odio. I never approached her for funds, with or without Howard or Seymour.

And if we weren't there, it just had to be Oswald and two Cubans. Which makes the whole of holes.

With wi[redacted] witness to the assassination being killed off, I kept out of the way.

On Feb. 17, 1967, the newspapers announced that Jim Garrison had started his investigation and on March 1, he charged New Orleans civic leader Clay Shaw with conspiring to kill Kennedy.

He kept probing. And he came up with my name because I had attended the radical right wing meetings.

He subpoenaed me in December 1967, claiming I was in Dallas until the assassination, and associated with men he contends plotted the assassination.

I figured he was trying to pin me with a conspiracy charge. I knew plenty, but I wasn't going to face a conspiracy rap.

I denied everything, and fought the subpoena. I proved I was in California on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was shot, and a Bakersfield, Calif., judge quashed the subpoena on Jan. 24, 1968. But that court case brought me back out into the open again. And some people figured I better be silenced for good.

On March 16, 1968, I was driving alone in my car from Kernsville to Bakersville, in California, when someone in a 1954 Mercury tried to run me off the road. There was only the driver, whom I couldn't recognize, in the car.

He made a deliberate attempt to run me off the road at a point where there was a ravine with a 180 foot drop. He threw the right rear end of his auto into my left front.

I swerved into the side of the road, jammed on my brakes, and the front of my car hit a rock. If the rock hadn't been there, I would have gone straight over into the ravine. The guy didn't stop.

I was scared as hell. I was even more scared when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968. The killing again fitted the pattern set in these discussions with the militant madmen.

I started carrying a gun with me at all times.

Then on Sunday, April 28, I was driving on the San Bernardino Freeway about 65 miles per hour when a car alongside me had a blowout.

I swerved to keep from hitting him, and my steering power failed completely. I slammed on the brakes, and by a miracle I didn't wreck the car, although I hit the retaining fence before I stopped.

I checked the car and found that somebody had taken a wrench and broken three of the steering mounts, leaving only one bolt. When I swerved the car suddenly, the stress broke the remaining bolt.

The three other bolts were sheared off. It couldn't have been accidental. They were deliberately broken. I'd had the car fixed and checked after the first accident, and everything was okay.

I was not injured in either of the accidents. I didn't report them to the police officially. But I spoke to two policemen I knew, and they said they didn't want to get involved. I figured that the only way was to tell everything I knew, so that the main reason for silencing me would be ended.

I figured Garrison was the best man to tell after he assured me there would be no conspiracy charge. I went to New Orleans voluntarily on May 5, and told him everything. I spent 18 hours with Garrison and his investigators.

Evidence that Garrison showed me, but that I cannot reveal, convinced me that I was right in believing the radical right wingers certainly killed President John Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

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triggermen were different, but the planning was done by the same people.

The shooting of Bobby Kennedy on June 5 set me thinking again. I'm sure, from what I heard at these meetings back in the early 1960s, that it is part of the same operation.

I'm not saying that accused assassin Sirhan Sirhan was hired to kill. I think it highly likely, because so many of these militants are on the West Coast, that he was deliberately filled with hate for Bobby Kennedy. These militants could have poisoned Sirhan's mind so that he finally killed Bobby Kennedy — and they were able to strike another name off their kill list.

I am not naming the militants here because I fear I might jeopardize Jim Garrison's chance of blowing this plot wide open.

I do say that Lee Harvey Oswald, or his killer, Jack Ruby, never attended any of the "kill list" meetings I attended.

I hope now I can fade back out of the spotlight. I'll still be taking plenty of precautions in case other attempts are made on my life. But I feel much safer now that my knowledge is not a secret.

WHY LORAN HALL TALKED

I played no part in the killings of the Kennedy brothers and Dr. Martin Luther King.

But I know too much about certain militants still alive in this country who want to rule it — and who are prepared to organize and carry out assassinations to gain supremacy.

When two attempts were made on my life early this year to permanently silence me, I decided that my only safeguard was to take away the reason for these attacks.

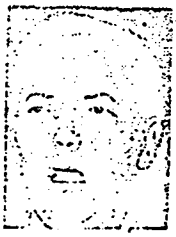
That is why I have told District Attorney Jim Garrison all I know. And that is why I am talking to The ENQUIRER.

There is no point in killing me now. All the information I have is documented in New Orleans, and there is no way it can be hidden.

KENNEDY MEN: Regarded as dangerous by right wingers, others on the list of men to be murdered, says Hall, were (from left) Earl Warren, Dean Rusk and Robert McNamara.

D.A. JIM GARRISON'S STATEMENT ABOUT HALL

In connection with our inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, this office has questioned Mr. Loran Hall at considerable length. Mr. Hall — who came to New Orleans voluntarily — was completely cooperative as a witness. It is apparent that Hall was in no way personally connected with the events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas. It is equally apparent that other individuals and agencies caused Mr. Hall's name to be injected into exhibits of the Warren Commission and into other statements so that any effort to investigate the assassination would cause his name to appear.



GARRISON

Where elements of a professional intelligence agency execute an assassination, as was the case in the murder of President Kennedy, the operation includes not only the setting up of a decoy — like Lee Harvey Oswald — but the creation of artificial leads pointing to persons who are actually not involved. Our office is satisfied that the appearance of Hall's name in the Warren Commission exhibits is such a case, and is unsupported by any facts.

Mr. Hall proved to be a helpful witness for our inquiry because of his extensive experience in anti-Cuban raids from Florida in the early 1960s. Hall's genuine concern about the assassination of President Kennedy and about the subsequent concealment of the truth was apparent, and our office is indebted to him for his help in the investigation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This statement by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison making it clear that Hall was not a conspirator in the death of President Kennedy, was released to the press on May 10.

JFK: A sniper team planned to kill the President, says Hall.

LEE H. OSWALD
He was a patsy, according to Hall.

ON KILL LIST: Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were both marked for death by radical right wingers, says anti-Castro fighter Loran Hall.